**Setting up of representative office of SICL**

3849. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Small Industries Corporation Limited had set-up representative office abroad without proper assessment of the business it is expected to generate resulting into infructuous expenditure of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, whether the matter was inquired into to fix responsibility of the people responsible for setting up the officers abroad and whether any responsibility has been fixed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the business generated out of the efforts of the representative offices?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC), a public sector enterprise under the administrative control of this Ministry, had set up small foreign offices at Johannesburg, South Africa and Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), in December, 1995 and September, 1996 respectively, with the approval of Reserve Bank of India and Board of Directors of NSIC. Both these offices have been set up to disseminate information, on technologies of small industrial projects used by the Indian small enterprises, in these countries/regions, to exhibit the machinery and equipment produced in the small scale sector in India and to promote enterprise-to-enterprise and institution-to-institution level cooperation, between India and South Africa/UAE, as the case may be. The office at Johannesburg has been operating as a non-trading office, with the aforesaid objectives, to help generate business for both products and projects from India. The Dubai office has commercial activities of its own also, besides the promotional activities stated above. Though these offices have not yet become self-sustaining, they have largely met the promotional objectives, for which they were established. The performance of the two offices is regularly reviewed by the NSIC. The High Commissioner of India in South Africa and the Ambassador of India in the UAE have strongly recommended continuation of these offices.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (b).

(d) The business generated by these two foreign offices is as under:

| Year Johannesburg Office Business generated (US $) | Dubai Office | Business generated (US $) |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 5,487 | 78,260 |
| 2003-04 | 2,48,207 | 98,956 |
| 2004-05 (upto Feb, 2005) | 82,409 | 7,62,895 |

**Promotion of SSIs in Maharashtra and M.P.**

†3850. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has demanded special grants from Government for the benefits of Small Scale Industries in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any schemes are being run at present by Government for the promotion of Small Scale Industries in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The schemes/programmes being implemented throughout the country, including Maharashtra, for the promotion of small scale industries are listed in the Statement (*See* below). Besides these schemes, the Central Government has set up the following institutions in Maharashtra to undertake activities mentioned against each:–

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.